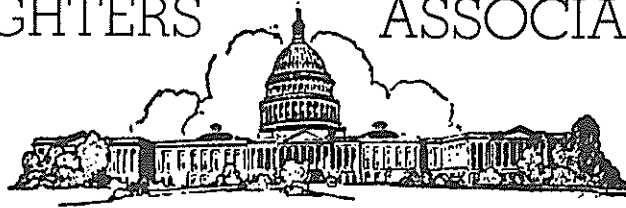


FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



LOCAL No. 36
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
of FIRE FIGHTERS



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May 30, 2007

Fire Chief Dennis Rubin
1923 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chief Rubin:

Several weeks ago I requested, and you granted, permission to park the support vehicle for the group, "Family & Friends For Freedom Fund, Inc. at Engine 6.

The group is comprised of active and retired members of the FDNY who are also Marines. Their mission is to raise funds for injured Marines and their families. They were invited to Washington to participate in the Memorial Day Parade.

They were coming to the District by way of Gettysburg, PA and down Route 270.

I had warned them to be extremely careful at the 270 split where, if you go to the right, you will find yourself in Northern Virginia.

Go to the left!

Yes, you guessed correctly, they went to the right.

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About 6:30pm I received a frantic call. They had crossed the American Legion Bridge and were on the George Washington Park Way where no trucks are allowed, particularly a vehicle 55 feet long and 12.5 feet in height.

I instructed them not to move because there are several over passes that according to the placards the vehicle would not pass under.

Needing some sound advice I immediately contacted Operations Chief Schultz and explained my situation.

He suggested I contact EMS Captain Henry Lyles, of Special Operations

I explained what had occurred and asked his assistance.

Captain Lyles contacted U.S. Park Police and asked them to be on the look out for the support vehicle with FDNY markings and assist as needed.

However, New Yorkers, being the independent individuals that they are.....the next call I received they were in downtown Alexandria. Later, when I asked the driver, "how did you get through the overpasses", he calmly replied, "I just got in the middle of the Parkway....closed my eyes...and when I didn't hear any scraping noise.. kept getting up!"

Captain Lyles established telephone contact with the driver (thus my purpose in writing you) AND LITERALLY talked him through Alexandria onto the ramp of Engine 6.

I believe Captain Lyles should receive "official thanks" for his actions on May 26, 2007, when, without any hesitation, he came to the aid of a fellow firefighter in need.

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And as for the driver of the monster support vehicle?

With a twinkle in his eye and in the voice reminiscent of Archie Bunker, "I never did trust those bridge signs"!

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Kenny Cox
Kenny Cox
Local 36